

Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

Action Team: Regulations & Season Structure	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits B.1,3,4,6,9,13
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Pages 29-31

This document shows the original Deer Trustee Report recommendation that the Public Action Team considered when developing proposals for implementing the recommendation in Wisconsin. The Public Action Team's implementation proposal is presented then followed by additional background information.

I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION # B.1,3,4,6,9,13

B.1. Simplify the regulatory process by setting antlerless harvest goals, harvest regulations and antlerless permit quotas on a 3-5 year cycle. The annual process of changing regulations, population estimates and antlerless permit quotas magnifies media coverage and public discontent. The annual turmoil and arguments over deer number estimates is pointless with only negative consequences. Increasing the length of the regulatory cycle should also provide better insight into population response to harvest regulations.

B.3. Increase the cost of all antlerless tags for Regular and Herd Control Units to \$12. The cost of \$2 for an antlerless permit in Herd Control Units seems ridiculously low and many hunters see herd control designation as a downgrade in how WDNR values the deer resource. In past years many Herd Control Units had unlimited antlerless tag quotas or quotas where demand was half or less of supply. The reduction in the number of Herd Control Units from 64 in 2011 to 45 in 2012 was a positive step for improving the image of WDNR. Charging \$12 instead of \$2 per antlerless also will increase funding for damage abatement and compensation under the WDACP. Excess funds generated by this fee increase not used in the WDACP could be redirected to other needs such as funding for applied research to answer management questions. This recommendation could be adopted for all DMUs outside the CWD units by doing away with the Herd Control Unit designation.

B.4. Consider charging a fee for antlerless tags in the CWD Zone. CWD DMUs allow unlimited antlerless deer harvest and antlerless carcass tags are free of charge (limit of four per hunter per day) which implies deer have little or negative value in these areas. Charging a modest fee of \$5-10 per set of four tags would signify some positive value for deer and generated funds could be earmarked for CWD monitoring, research or outreach efforts.

B.6. Limit antlerless deer harvest in Regular and Herd Control Zones. Limiting the number of Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags that can be purchased by an individual hunter to two-four should alleviate complaints that a few hunters are taking a disproportionate share of the harvest. The limit could be in addition to the free Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag provided with the Gun Deer or Archery Deer licenses effectively making the limit three-five antlerless deer per hunter. Those hunters purchasing both gun and archery licenses could harvest one additional antlerless deer. The impacts of limiting the number of tags that are sold on antlerless harvest and funds generated should be assessed.

B.9. Maintain the current buck limit of one buck per Deer Gun License (may be used in muzzleloader season) and one buck per Archery Deer License. Hunters appear to be content with current limits on buck harvest although some desired that a limit of one buck over all seasons per year.

B.13. Put the fun back into hunting! We received numerous comments that most hunters are weary of the controversies surrounding deer hunting in Wisconsin and sincerely want resolution that will allow them to feel some ownership in the deer management process. The WDNR is already moving in this direction with more emphasis on people management as evidenced by improvements to the WDNR website including online forums for public inputs, public involvement in research activities, and the recommendations for the 2012 deer seasons submitted to the Natural Resources Board in April. Working with hunters and landowners through the DMAP and other educational efforts should build on these successes.



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II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Below is the Public Action Team implementation proposal along with their rationale and supporting evidence, potential implementation obstacles and consideration of the proposal's potential impact on the overall deer management in Wisconsin.

Revised 7-20-13

1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

- With the purchase of a gun or archery deer license you will be issued a buck tag valid statewide and an antlerless deer carcass tag for farmland zones only. Any additional antlerless tags will need to be purchased for \$7.00. The purchase of the \$7.00 antlerless tags in the farmland zones will be limited to two per day until the zone is sold out or the season is closed. It was also supported (16 yes, 1 no) to maintain the Non-resident fee of \$20 for bonus antlerless tags. In the regular units the group recommended the purchase antlerless tags be limited to one per day until the unit is sold out or season is closed. Northern and Central forest zones shall be evaluated on an annual basis and farmland zones shall be evaluated on a 3 year cycle, this was supported (12 yes, 0 no). Additionally, it was supported (12 yes, 2 no) to limit hunters to only 1 bonus buck and maintain the limit of one buck per deer gun license and one buck per deer archery license (3 total bucks).

2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it.

- Revision of B-1,9,13: Issue one either sex tag statewide with purchase of gun and archery license was originally supported but later redacted
- Revision of B-3,4,13: Eliminate the statewide free antlerless tag with purchase of gun or archery license was supported but later redacted
- Revision of B-3,4,6,13: Sell individual antlerless tags for \$12.00 statewide, eliminate the sale of 3 antlerless tags in a package for \$20.00 was originally supported but later redacted
- Revision of B-6,13: Limit the sale of one antlerless tag for \$7.00 to one per day until zone is sold out or season is closed was supported

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- The 3 farmland zones - gun deer license valid for either sex was originally supported but later revised to current proposal
- All antlerless tags will be good for bow and/or gun in all zones (farmland and forest zones), all regular units will base antlerless harvest on an annual quota setting process.
- This will be set only for 3 farmland zones to reduce numbers

4. Overall, how will this proposal simplify or complicate deer hunting, management, or research in Wisconsin.

- A recommendation of 3 tags in a package for \$20 was originally supported but then later revised to a plan to sell individual antlerless tags for \$7.00 statewide. The rationale is that the majority of hunters bags one or zero deer each year, and the \$7.00 tag will be consistent and simple.



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Simplified the regulations by removing/addressing many DTR recommendations as follows:

- B.1. Simplify the regulatory process by setting antlerless harvest goals, harvest regulations and antlerless permit quotas on a 3-5 year cycle.
- B.3. "Increase cost of all antlerless tags to \$12"
- B.4. "Charge fee for antlerless tags in CWD Zone"
- Include all listed at beginning of document
- B.6. Limit antlerless deer harvest in Regular and Herd Control Zones.
- B.9. Maintain the current buck limit of one buck per Deer Gun License (may be used in muzzleloader season) and one buck per Archery Deer License
- B.13. Put the fun back into hunting by simplifying seasons, bag limits and youth qualifications